

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 00722 252314Z

70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AID-20 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03

DRC-01 /112 W

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O R 252245Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC 1066

INFO AMCONSUL CALI UNN

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 722

MEX FOR O'GRADY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB CO

SUBJ: UTC-CTC LEADERS RECONCILED

1. LABATT HAS LEARNED FROM SOURCE WITH ACCESS TO BOTH THE CTC AND UTC THAT MERCADO AND CUEVAS MET WITH LABMIN ON JAN 24 TO DISCUSS PROBLEM CAUSED BY IAF GRANT TO UTC.

2. ACCORDING SOURCE, LABMIN ASSURED MERCADO THAT THE CTC WOULD SOMEHOW BE INCLUDED IN THE WORKERS BANK, AND OBTAINED A COMMITMENT FROM CUEVAS TO USE HIS INFLUENCE IN GETTING MERCADO APPOINTED TO THE BANK'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS. BANK IS SCHED TO BE DECREED FEB 5.

3. WHEN LABMIN ASKED MERCAO TO EXPLAIN HIS EMOTIONAL OUTBURST AGAINST THE BANK AND THE UTC-IAF AGREEMENT, MERCADO ALLEGEDLY SAID THAT LABATT HAD FED HIM FALSE INFO AND HAD URGED HIM TO ATTEMPT TO IMPEDE THE CREATION OF THE BANK. CUEVAS REPORTEDLY VOUCHERED FOR MERCADO'S STATEMENT AND BOTH ACCUSED LABATT OF
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INTERFERING IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE COLOMBIAN LABOR MOVE-

MENT.

4. WE ASSUME THAT BOTH CUEVAS AND MERCADO WILL BRING UP "INTER-FERENCE" WITH AIFLD AND THE AFL-CIO. DEPT HAS COMPLETE BACK-GROUND ON PROBLEM. LABATT ACTED UNDER MY INSTRUCTIONS AND IN NO WAY EXCEEDED HIS GUIDANCE OR ATTEMPTED TO INTERFERE IN INTERNAL MATTERS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT MERCADO APPROACHED LABATT COMPLAINING THAT CUEVAS AND IAF HAD UPSET LONGSTANDING ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN TWO CONFEDERATIONS. LABATT'S ACTIVITIES CONFINED TO EXPLORING FACTS OF CASE WITH BOTH UTC AND CTC. THIS PROCESS RESULTED IN THE DIMINISHING OF THE TENSE SITUATION BETWEEN CUEVAS AND MERCADO. UNFORTUNATELY, IN ATTACKING THE BANK AND THE UTC-IAF AGREEMENT MERCADO PUT HIMSELF OUT ON A LIMB WITH THE LABOR MINISTER. HE APPARENTLY IS TRYING TO INGRATIATE HIMSELF WITH THE LABMIN BY USING THE LABATT AS A SCAPEGOAT.
WHITE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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